

# POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB

est. 1947

## NOVEMBER 1991 NEWSLETTER

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - WA8MAZ DON DASO (301) 702-2059  
VICE PRESIDENT - N3JT JIM TALENS (301) 241-1144  
SECRETARY - AA4XU BEN SHAVER (703) 534-4740  
TREASURER - N3RR BILL HIDER (301) 424-2707

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The Potomac Valley Radio Club meets the second Monday of each month, from September through May. Regular business meetings alternate between College Park, MD and Temple Hills, MD. For directions to the next meeting, see below. Or call any club officer.

**PVRC CHARTER MEMBERS:** W3GRF, W3IKN, W4AAV (SK), W4KFC (SK), W4KFT, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI (W0DX).

Charter Members are not required to pay dues.

**VHF Repeater (K3WX):** Output 147.00 MHz., Input 146.40 MHz.

**UHF Repeater (K3WX):** Output 443.15 MHz., Input 448.15 MHz.

### Packet Cluster Contest/DX System:

145.51 MHz. Connect to W0YVA  
145.57 MHz. Connect to N2FB  
145.59 MHz. Connect to W3LPL  
145.63 MHz. Connect to K3NA  
147.525 MHz. Connect to N4SR

### Next Meetings:

Date: 11 November 1991  
Place: Church of the Nativity  
5203 Manchester Drive,  
Temple Hills MD  
Time: 1930 Hours EST

OVER-THE-HILL Division  
(Contact W4GF for details)

Check with the packet cluster or the repeater for last minute changes, if any.

### DIRECTIONS TO TEMPLE HILLS MEETING:

Take the Capital Beltway to Exit 7-A. Head south on Maryland Route 5 (Branch Avenue) toward Waldorf. Immediately after entering Branch Avenue you will come to a stoplight, which is Manchester Drive. Turn right on Manchester Drive. In the middle of the block on the left hand side, you will notice the Church of the Nativity sign next to the church entrance. Go up the drive to the top and park in the church's parking lot.

Many thanks to Tony Faiola, K3WX, for use of his copier for publishing this Newsletter.

Editor: Fred Laun, K3ZO (301) 899-1235

Production and Circulation Manager: Howard Leake, W6AXX (301) 465-7008

Club Historian: Lawrence T. Fadner, W3GN (301) 725-1624

News Deadline: 20th each month.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

According to numerology, 1990 was supposed to be a turbulent year for me. My only reaction is: "Indeed!"

A number of things have happened, several of which were mentioned at the October meeting. The most serious change in my life is now centered around my impending unemployment -- as one of 67 University personnel laid off to meet budget cuts. This will probably necessitate taking free lance work, which may or may not cut into my contest plans. But...I digress...

Let's talk about contesting, specifically the WW Phone. Nearly every member present at the October meeting discussed operating plans and I can only suggest to those who were not there that they please get on, send in their scores labeled "PVRC" and plan for the upcoming contests. Remember, no score or effort is too small. If you are still be-numbed by the pencil pushing process, K3ZO has offered to dupe your logs after the contest on his computer using K1EA. On the domestic

contest scene, a number of us feel that we should try to make a major effort to win the medium-club category during this year's SS. FRC is planning to dominate in the unlimited club category. I believe we should "rise to their occasion" and see how we can compete. Again, if you get on, please send in your log.

Plans are underway to find a new second meeting site for PVRC, hopefully somewhere in Northern Virginia, in response to requests and the loss of the UMCP site.

Starting in January, please give your support and feedback to the following new PVRC officers: N3RR, President; ND3A, Vice-President; AA4XU, Secretary; K1DQV, Treasurer; and W6AXX & K3ZO, Publisher and Editor of the Newsletter.

And make plans to attend the Holiday Dinner on 11 December at Andrews AFB Officers' Club.

Vy. 73 de Don, WA8MAZ.

## MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

First of all, errata from the last issue:

K3KG, I am told, was never a PVRC member. He did live in this area once, but was a member of NCDXA, not PVRC.

The state which constitutes the Southern portion of our club area is Virginia, NOT Virgina. Sorry!

Finally, it was announced in the last issue that K1AR's questionnaire was attached. It wasn't. Your editor made a boo-boo and gave one too many pages to Howard, so we had to eliminate one page. Since the deadline of the K1AR questionnaire is 20 November, we felt we could hold it over 'til this month. You should find it attached to THIS issue.

As Don says in the preceding article, we will

have to drop the University of Maryland meeting site, so this gives our Virginia members the opportunity to come up with something there. They have not let any grass grow under their feet. Ben, AA4XU, has already come up with one suggestion to the Board of Directors, and our next President, Bill, N3RR, is working on a site over there also. Stay tuned.

Hugh, W3ABC, mentioned something at the last meeting about the FCC's possible relaxation of the rules on commercial use of amateur radio, though the content of what the FCC proposed was apparently somewhat exaggerated by the amateur radio press. The FCC's proposal was apparently in response to widespread negative comments on the FCC's action in the anti-war packet message. However, all of us should be vigilant

in sniffing out possible use of our bands by commercial entities. What may seem like a harmless activity could be the camel's nose getting in under the tent. Those who claim that the technology does not exist to screen packet messages haven't explained how such commercial services as Compuserve and Prodigy manage to keep unwanted material off their systems.

How about this item from the September issue of The Canadian Amateur? The June 1991 issue of IEEE's Antenna and Propagation Magazine "has pictures and a description of a big Yagi operating on 14150 KHz. in southern California. It is mounted on six towers in line, making a divided boom 100 metres long (that's 333 feet! - ed.) The calculated gain, over good dielectric ground, is 21.5 dBi. Each element is of heavy wall tubing 32 mm. diameter at the centre, tapered to 19 mm. at the ends, and the booms are each 9 metres long and 75 mm. diameter. From the photos there appear to be 13 elements. The antenna was built by W6TSW, W6VPH, and K6BLG and

is aimed 15 degrees East of true North with a beamwidth of 30 degrees at the -3 db. points." Howard, W6AXX, has pictures of this monster if anyone is interested... Next year's project, Frank?

Roger Kaul, K3TM, (301-394-1403), is getting together an order for dacron-covered polyester rope. This is the 5/16" stuff. Let Roger know if you want to join in on this order.

Finally, something is brewing on call signs again. Supposedly the ARRL had attached wording to a Congressional appropriations bill which would allow the FCC to give the ARRL -- but no other amateur organization -- the right to issue amateur radio call signs under certain circumstances. Other amateur organizations found out about it and raised the roof, so the wording was changed in a way that would allow any amateur organization to be named to do this function. At any rate, this may presage the reissuing of elapsed 1 x 2's and other combinations. Stay tuned!

GL in CQWW and SS!!! Go get 'em!!!  
73 de Fred

#### BOOK REVIEW

### DON C. WALLACE, W6AM by JAN PERKINS, N6AW

by Howard Leake, W6AXX

On our return to La Mesa, CA, in late August our host, Dick Shanks, W6BZE, had this book on his operating desk, so that I wouldn't miss seeing it.

Quickly thumbing through the 300+ pages, I discovered there was an enormous amount of information available that would be of interest to an old timer like me. And to a younger ham interested in the history and experience of an individual who had devoted his life to amateur radio, yet maintained a balanced life.

An interesting aspect of this book is that one can read a chapter, whether it is in the middle or at either end, and it will make sense. One

chapter I found extremely interesting was entitled "A Second Chance."

Jan Perkins had a wealth of background material (all documented in the index) submitted by hams from all walks of life. An old friend of mine, Perry Esten, ex 8BOX -- now W6PN -- was one that comes to mind. Also be sure and read about PVRC's George Sinclair, K6ETM, and Fred Laun, HS5ABD. To those interested in DXCC and especially the deleted countries list, you can scrutinize the pages of color photographs of Don's QSL cards.

Much is written about contests and contesting from the "Ranch," including a comment about

how Don disliked list operations, to which I heartily agree. The chapters on the "Ranch," how it happened, the maintenance of the antenna field, and Don's yearly "Open House" -- which I will never forget -- make interesting reading.

If you are a "true blue" amateur radio operator you should have a copy of Don C. Wallace,

W6AM<sup>1</sup> as it will not only entertain you and your friends, but it can be useful as a reference guide to the history of amateur radio.

73 de Howard.

<sup>1</sup> Available from Wallace & Wallace, 11823 E. Slauson Avenue, Suite 38, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Price: \$29.95.

## CONTEST NOTES

by Fred Laun, K3ZO

I have just finished the SAC SSB Contest as I write this, and it occurred to me that some people might like a little tip for getting the DX stations on 40 meter phone to listen in the American phone band through a technique which I use and which is perfectly legal.

Though I wouldn't say I have never asked a station down in the low part of the 40 meter phone band to "listen up" by transmitting unidentified SSB on his own frequency, I do take signing of the standard statement on the summary sheet seriously and therefore have not engaged in illegal practices during contests for several years.

In a contest like the CQ WW a great many DX stations already listen in the American phone band, and, especially now that the presence of remote VFOs is *de rigeur* in even the lowliest DX shack, the problem in a contest like that has almost ceased to exist. But in the SAC Contest, most of our Scandinavian friends have concluded, correctly, that it is a waste of time listening in the American phone band on 40 on a routine basis, though they are happy to put the remote VFO into action if they know for sure that someone is listening to them and anxious for a contact.

Enter the Laun method of getting stations to "listen up." It so happens that on the TS-830-S, if you engage the RIT on the remote VFO and turn the RIT deviation control all the way clockwise, then when you tune an ssb

station in on LSB your CW is in the passband of his receiver when you switch to the CW position and transmit. Since in the Scandinavian countries all of the amateurs have passed an honest CW exam, they all know it pretty well and it is easy to get their attention. Of 31 stations I worked on 40 in this SAC contest, 7 were already listening in the American phone band when I heard them; the other 24 came up as a result of my CW on their frequency asking them to. Four other stations did not acknowledge my CW, and one other station could not find a clear frequency for me to call him on, so after 10 minutes' hard work he gave up without a QSO (thanks, LA9HFA, anyway, for the trouble). Not a bad percentage, I would say!

Of course there are countries where the CW exam is honored mainly in the breach, but fortunately during the YV and HK contests I have my "helpers" in those countries lined up in advance to spread the word "down below" that there is this loud Yankee up above 7150 ready and eager to hand out contest points. If you are an HJ novice operating 40 meter phone only, W's are rare DX, those that speak Spanish even rarer.

Have you received QSLs from some German hams who are not in your log but who claim that they were the operator of their club station when the club station worked you in a contest? They ask that you send a QSL confirming the QSO with their personal call. It happens to me



all the time.

I suppose most people, figuring that a K3 isn't that rare anyway, would answer the card and let it go at that. But I am rather strict on handling QSLs, and my approach is, how do I know if they were the operator or not? So I send their card back through the bureau with a note saying: "This call sign does not appear in my log."

Now and then a club station operator will tell me what his personal call is while we are in QSO. For anyone who does that in a contest, I quickly make note of it on K1EA using "ALT-N" and if that person asks for my QSL he will get one.

Every so often a bunch of SWL cards will arrive from the same Russian oblast all saying that they heard me making a QSO with the very same station, often a club station right in the town where they live. In talking this over with others I have found that I am not the only one that suspects that SWL club members go through the logs of their club station and send SWL reports to stations they would like to have cards from. But I can't prove it, so I send the cards anyway. Supposedly a would-be amateur over there can't even apply to take the amateur radio examination until he has obtained a set minimum number of QSLs as an SWL. So I figure the more QSLs I can help him with, the sooner this SWL will be on the air giving me points in a contest!

## QSL BUREAUS: WHO SHOULD THEY SERVE?

by Fred Laun, K3ZO

The September issue of the North Jersey DX Association (NJDXA) Newsletter notes that the ARRL Board of Directors had failed to act favorably on a proposal by the NJDXA that henceforth only ARRL members would be allowed to receive incoming QSLs through the ARRL incoming QSL Bureau. As many of you know, the NJDXA handles the W2 incoming QSL Bureau.

In the opinion of this writer, the ARRL Board of Directors acted wisely in refusing to adopt this position. The basic problem with it is that the DX station sending a card to a US operator usually has no idea whether that operator is a member of the ARRL or not. So the Bureau stands to get many QSLs for non-members automatically. Then what does it do? Return them to the sending Bureau, adding to the expense of mailings to that Bureau, or destroy correspondence that they have no right to destroy, since the QSL is property of the destinee, not the Bureau.

Record-keeping is also a problem for incoming Bureaus. It is easy to require proof of

membership for an outgoing Bureau, because with each shipment of outgoing cards the member provides a copy of his membership label. But suppose a member sends 10 envelopes to the incoming Bureau along with a membership label? Will he still be a member when the last of the envelopes finally fills up? What about the case where the Bureau just sent a bunch of cards back to originating Bureaus marked "non-member" the day before the member's envelopes and label arrive?

The present system allows non-members of the ARRL (as well as members) to get their QSLs as long as they defray the postal costs of getting the cards from the Bureau to them. If the ham doesn't provide the required postage, he is in effect saying that he doesn't care about the cards, giving the Bureau justification to dispose of the QSLs in question as it wishes.

Having lived overseas I have been personal witness to cases where IARU Member Societies adopted or attempted to adopt rules whereby anyone receiving QSLs through the incoming Bureau had to be a member of the national

IARU-member society. The usual argument made for justifying the institution of such a procedure is that it will force those amateurs who have no other reason for joining the national society to become members.

In Argentina, a rival national society (such rival societies exist in many countries) offered to continue handling cards for members or non-members alike, forcing the IARU-member society to withdraw its dictum.

In Colombia, the measure was modified to allow non-members to continue to receive cards as long as they paid several times more than members in costs. Many members resigned in protest.

In the Dominican Republic, the long-time volunteer QSL Manager resigned rather than carry out such a policy, causing a split in the club between his supporters and opponents, motivating many amateurs to move over to the rival society.

There are bureaus which have for years required that amateurs be members of their

national societies in order to receive incoming QSLs. Those that come to mind include Germany and South Africa, which at least are kind enough to return the QSLs to the sender. To the extent that such policies exist, they make the ARRL Outgoing Bureau less efficient than it would otherwise be, since a certain percentage of the cards you and I send through this service are by definition undeliverable, and we don't have any idea which ones they are.

What might happen if the ARRL were to require ARRL membership for amateurs to receive their incoming bureau cards? Would Glenn Baxter's International Amateur Radio Network offer to establish a rival incoming QSL Bureau with no membership strings attached? Would disgruntled non-members kick the sleeping dog Postal Service into reviewing once again the matter of whether the ARRL Bureau constitutes a violation of statutes giving a monopoly on mail service to the Government?

It might be better just to leave well-enough alone.

## THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

by Ben Shaver, AA4XU

25 SEPTEMBER 1991

The OVER-THE-HILL Division of the Potomac Valley Radio Club met for lunch and discussion at the Ramada Inn in Oxon Hill, MD. Len Chertok, W3GRF, was host.

Attending: WR4S W3GRF W4GF AA4XU  
W3XE W3GN W4NL W6AXX W3AZ W3CPB  
KC3AG AA4I W3ABC KE3Q K3ZO.

(Note: your editor misplaced Ben's minutes for the October regular and Over-the-Hill meetings. They will appear in the next issue. Sorry!)

# Contesting Survey: Inside the Mind of Today's Contester

Your Callsign (optional):

Contesting Experience (years):

1. In a few words, what is the single most important issue facing contesting today (e.g., lack of new blood, ethics, etc.)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you think the sport of contesting will continue to improve over time, or have we seen the best?  
☐ YES ☐ NO
3. What is the age of the youngest and oldest contester that you personally know? (Approximate answer is acceptable.)  
Youngest: \_\_\_\_\_ Oldest: \_\_\_\_\_
4. As you have grown older, what has changed about your ability to operate?  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are experienced contesters doing anything about bringing more youth into contesting?  
☐ YES ☐ NO
6. Is contesting an asset or a liability for amateur radio?  
☐ Asset ☐ Liability
7. Has the integration of technology into contesting gone too far?  
☐ YES ☐ NO
8. Do you feel the competitive nature of contesters is germane to other areas of life (e.g., career, other hobbies, relationships)?  
☐ YES ☐ NO
9. In one sentence, what has been your most memorable contest experience (e.g., participating in the last multi-multi operation at W2PV)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What other hobbies do you enjoy outside of contesting/amateur radio?  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What percentage of your vacation/holiday time do you use for contesting and related activities (e.g., antenna work, DXpeditions, etc.)?  
☐ less than 10% ☐ 25-50% ☐ greater than 90%  
☐ 10-25% ☐ 50-90%
12. Do you use some form of computer support while operating?  
☐ YES ☐ NO
13. Given the right set of circumstances (e.g., best station, access to good operators to learn from, QTH), can most anyone eventually win the Single Operator category in a major DX contest?  
☐ YES ☐ NO

Comments: (use additional sheet if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Return survey to:**

John Dorr, K1AR, 2 Baldwin Street, Windham, NH 03087 USA

**Deadline:** November 20, 1991

Do not write above this line.



# ARRL November Sweepstakes

## License Class

- ☐ Novice  
☐ Technician  
☐ Other

CALL USED \_\_\_\_\_ CW ☐  
PHONE ☐

ARRL SECTION (P. 8 QST) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Separate logs must be submitted, with separate summaries, for each mode.

SCORING: \_\_\_\_\_ QSO points x \_\_\_\_\_ sections = \_\_\_\_\_ claimed score.

Count 2 points per complete QSO. [Cross out sections worked on the list below.]

Claimed Score	QSOs	Sections	Power Output	Hrs of Op
---------------	------	----------	--------------	-----------

- ☐ Single Operator Station (operator's call if different from call used) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Multioperator Station (shows call of **ALL** operators, loggers) \_\_\_\_\_

Club participation? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, print the name of your ARRL Affiliated Club: **POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB**

## Equipment Description:

Rigs \_\_\_\_\_

Antennas \_\_\_\_\_

"I have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations established for amateur radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee."

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Note your soapbox and other comments. Enclose your photos, as well as your SS logs and check sheets and mail promptly to:  
**ARRL Contests, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.**

## MULTIPLIER CHECK-OFF LIST

(Cross off each new section as worked.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	VE
CT	ENY	DE	AL	AR	EB	AZ	MI	IL	CO	MAR
EMA	NLI	EPA	GA	LA	LAX	EWA	OH	IN	IA	PQ
ME	NNJ	MDC	KY	MS	ORG	ID	WV	WI	KS	ON
NH	SNJ	WPA	NC	NM	SB	MT			MN	MB
RI	WNY		NFL	NTX	SCV	NV			MO	SK
VT			SC	OK	SDG	OR			NE	AB
WMA			SFL	STX	SF	UT			ND	BC
			TN	WTX	SJV	WWA			SD	YU/NWT
			VA		SV	WY				
			PR		PAC	AK				
			VI							

Print or type:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Check log for duplicate QSOs.
2. Copy ALL QSO info carefully. A penalty is assessed for incorrectly copied QSO info.
3. Observe mailing deadline
4. Dupe/check sheet must accompany all entries of 200 or more QSOs



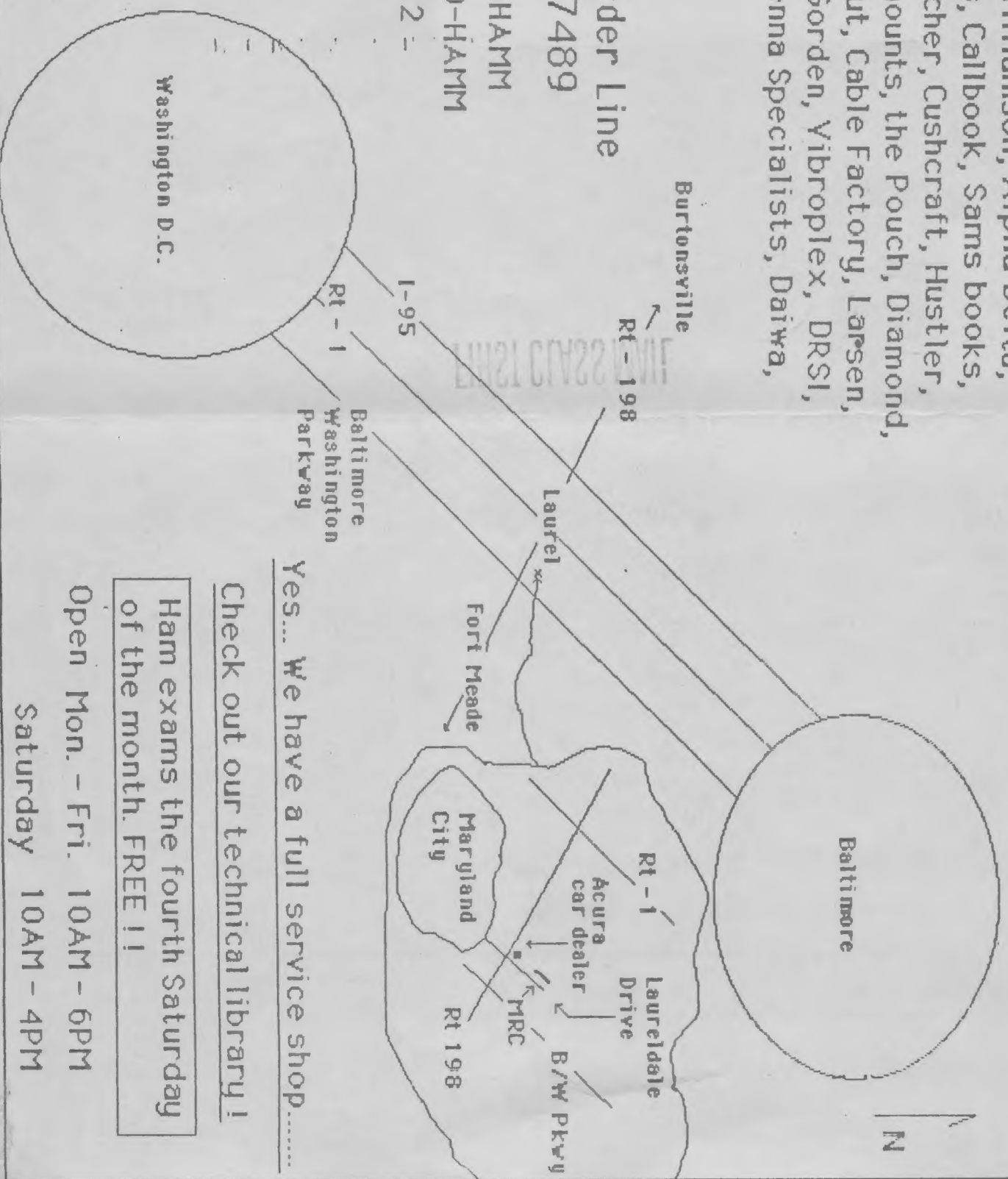
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PVRC NEWSLETTER



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Temple Hills MD 20757-0097

### DIRECTIONS TO THE COLLEGE PARK, MD MEETING

**FROM MARYLAND OR VIRGINIA:** Take the Washington Beltway 495 to the U.S. 1 South. College Park exit. Go south for about two miles and exit U.S. 1 to the right, MD 193, University Blvd West. Go west until the second traffic light, then turn left, Stadium Drive. At the first stop sign, turn right. You are now travelling through a parking lot. At the next stop sign, on your left, you will see a building with large white pillars and a sign for parking Lot 1. Park in Lot 1.

The building to the right of the one with the large white pillars is the TAWES building, where the meeting is held in Room 2154. Walk across a small service road, enter a door on left side of building, then up two flights of stairs. Room 2154 is on your left.

### DIRECTIONS TO THE TEMPLE HILLS, MD MEETING

**FROM MARYLAND:** Take your favorite road to the Washington Beltway 495 and head toward Andrews Air Force Base. Exit Rt. 5 East, Branch Avenue. Stay in the right lane and turn right at the first traffic light. About 200 feet after the turn, the entrance to the Church parking lot will be on the left, with a small blue sign. Turn left there. Parking is at the top of the hill.

**FROM VIRGINIA:** Take your favorite road to the Washington Beltway 495 and head toward Maryland on the Outer Loop over the Wilson bridge. Exit Rt. 5 East, Branch Avenue. Stay in the right lane and turn right at the first traffic light. About 200 feet after the turn, the entrance to the Church parking lot will be on the left, with a small blue sign. Turn left there. Parking is at the top of the hill.